Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri)* —Is the Government aware that the literacy percentage in Cochin is far higher than that of the Madras Presidency?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—The percentage of this State is very high.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur).*—Is it higher?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—It is.

Electoral Rolls—Cochin Legislative Council election—preparation of.

3. **Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen** *(Kattur).*—Will the Government state:—

(a) whether they have issued instructions for the preparation of electoral rolls for the next election of the Cochin Legislative Council;

(b) whether the rolls are ordered to be prepared on the basis of the existing franchise?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes; but Government are considering the question of extending the existing franchise.

Subsequently Government have issued orders to keep in abeyance the preparation of these rolls until orders are passed on the Franchise Committee Report.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—May I know whether we will be right in gathering from the answers to the question that the idea of extending the franchise took shape with the Government after the order for the preparation of the preliminary rolls was given?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—It does not follow and it is not so.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—Are we to understand that at the time of issuing orders the Government had an idea of appointing a Committee to go into the question of widening the franchise?

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Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—Then may we know why they issued orders for the preparation of the electoral rolls?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—So far as this preliminary roll is concerned I do not think that there is any harm in printing them. Only slight modifications will have to be made in the light of the recommendations of the Franchise Committee. But subsequently Government thought that it would be better to stop the whole matter till matters are finally decided.

Mr. K. T. Mathew *(Kunnamkulam).*—Are not the Government aware that this would involve some expenditure?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—Yes. It will.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—May I know at what stage the preparation of the roll stands?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—I do not think that it has proceeded to any considerable extent.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Has the Government considered the question of widening the power of the Council?

Mr. President.—That question does not arise.

4. **Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri).*—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the work of preparing the preliminary Electoral Roll for the Legislative Council is now going on as ordered;

(b) whether in the light of the constitution of a Franchise Committee the work of preparation of the Electoral Rolls as per the existing qualifications for being voters has been stopped?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—

(a) No.

(b) Yes.

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